

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (PELL, CLAIRBORNE)
SUBJECT: CODEL PELL MEETS WEST BANKERS

1. CODEL PELL MET WITH FOUR PROMINENT WEST BANK
PERSONALITIES (HERBRON MAYOR QAWASIMA, UNRWA OFFICIAL
BAKERJIAN, AL QUDS EDITOR ABU ZALAF, AND BIR ZEIT
PROFESSOR HALLAJ) AT DPO RESIDENCE AUGUST 27.
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH WEST BANKERS LASTED ABOUT
2 1/2 HOURS WITH CODEL PELL ASKING FOR PALESTINIAN
VIEWS VIS-A-VIS DESIRED SHAPE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.
SENATOR NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN TO JERUSALEM
SINCE BEFORE 1967 AND WISHED TO INFORM HIMSELF AT
FIRST-HAND OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.

2. ALL FOUR WEST BANKERS STRESSED GENERAL CONSENSUS
FAVORING WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELIS FROM WEST BANK/GAZA
AND RIGHTS OF INHABITANTS TO DETERMINE THEIR
OWN FUTURE. BOTH HALLAJ AND BAKERJIAN
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ESPECIALLY FAVORED COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT
WEST BANK/GAZA STATE.

3. REFLECTING HIS SPECIAL CONCERNS AS MAYOR
OF ONE OF WEST BANK'S LARGEST TOWNS, QAWASIMA
CITED SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES HE
ENCOUNTERS IN TRYING TO PROVIDE MUNICIPAL

SERVICES UNDER MILITARY OCCUPATION TO TOWN OF 60,000 WHICH ALSO SERVES AS HEART OF REGION WITH POPULATION OF OVER 200,000. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO SENATOR FOR SMALL US AID PROGRAM AND ESPECIALLY CITED ANERA'S HELPFUL WORK IN HEBRON AREA.

4. HEAVIEST POLITICAL FIRE CAME FROM DR. HALLAJ WHO RECOUNTED HISTORY OF PAST 30 YEARS IN PALESTINE WHICH HAS LED TO ISRAEL CONQUERING AND HOLDING LARGE AMOUNTS OF ARAB TERRITORY. HE ARGUED THAT THESE ACQUISITIONS OF TERRITORY WERE NOT FOR SECURITY BUT RATHER EXPANSIONIST NATURE OF ZIONIST IDEOLOGY. HE NOTED THAT ISRAEL HAS SAID IT NEEDS MORE TERRITORY TO PROTECT ITS PEOPLE BUT AFTER EACH NEW ACQUISITION IT MOVES ITS PEOPLE FORWARD INTO THE VERY AREA WHICH IT CLAIMED IT NEEDS FOR A SECURITY BELT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR'S QUESTIONS REGARDING WEST BANK ATTITUDE TOWARD PLO, PLO'S TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND REJECTION OF RESOLUTION 242, BOTH HALLAJ AND BAKERJIAN SAID THAT PALESTINIAN ARABS HAD NOT BEEN GOOD AT ORGANIZING THEMSELVES AND WERE WITHOUT ANY EFFECTIVE POLITICAL COHESION OR VOICE UNTIL PLO'S SUCCESS IN PAST DECADE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR WEST BANKERS TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES SO THAT AS BAKERJIAN NOTED "THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BUT THE PLO TO REPRESENT US." AS TO THE TERRORISM ISSUE, BOTH SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY THE HISTORY OF THE PAST GENERATION HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT NO ONE EVER PAID ANY ATTENTION TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM UNTIL U THE PLO RIVETED WORLD ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES BY DESPERATE ACTS. HALLAJ SAID THAT IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT PLO WHICH NEVER SUPPORTED RESOLUTION 242 WOULD NOT DO SO NOW AND GIVE AWAY ITS REMAINING CARDS IN RETURN SIMPLY FOR A PROMISE THAT IT COULD BE A PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS OR AS HE PUT IT "THE MERE PRIVILEGE OF TALKING." THIS WOULD HOLD NO ASSURANCE OF ACTUALLY OBTAINING ANY OF ITS OBJECTIVES IN THE NEGOTIATION.

6. NONE OF THE WEST BANKERS PRESENT COULD SEE THE POSSIBILITY FOR ARABS AND JEWS TO LIVE TOGETHER IMMEDIATELY IN THE SAME STATE AFTER ALL THE BITTERNESS OF THE PAST GENERATION. FOR THIS REASON A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN LAND

WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED SOMEWHERE WEST OF THE JORDAN WHERE ARABS COULD LIVE IN THEIR OWN STATE NEXT TO ISRAEL. ALTHOUGH TERRITORIAL SWAPS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, I.E., PARTS OF GALILEE FOR PARTS OF WEST BANK WITH SECURITY IMPLICATIONS FOR ISRAEL, THE WEST BANKERS THOUGHT SUCH SWAPS COULD COMPLICATE EARLY NEGOTIATIONS AND ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL.

7. BAKERSJIAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS AND ATTITUDE TOWARD PLIGHT OF PALESTINIANS AND FOR HIS EFFORTS AT REACHING JUST SOLUTION. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PRESIDENT WOULD PERSIST IN THESE EFFORTS AND THAT U.S. PUBLIC AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONGRESS WOULD SUPPORT HIM. HALLAJ, WHILE CONCURRING IN PART WITH BAKERJIAN, WAS WORRIED THAT PRESIDENT MIGHT BE BACKING DOWN FROM EARLIER STATEMENTS SUCH AS HIS CALL FOR PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. UNTIL WEST BANKERS KNOW WHERE AND WHAT SUCH A HOMELAND WILL BE, HALLAJ HAD HIS RESERVATIONS.

8. ABU ZALAF CITED THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT PRESS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT PRESSURE ISRAEL AS PROOF THAT THE AMERICANS LACKED THE POLITICAL WILL NECESSARY TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. IF CARTER CANNOT STOP BEGIN FROM ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, ABU ZALAF ASKED RHETORICALLY, THEN HOW CAN HE EVER FORCE HIM TO GIVE UP LAND.

9. IN CONCLUSION, SENATOR PELL THANKED WEST BANKERS FOR THEIR VIEWS. ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT HIS VISIT TO JERUSALEM DID NOT LEAD HIM TO THINK THAT A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WOULD BE EASILY REACHED, HE APPRECIATED THE CANDOR WITH WHICH THE WEST BANKERS HAD SPOKEN AND WILL KEEP THEIR VIEWS IN MIND.

10. THIS REPORT WAS DRAFTED AFTER SENATOR'S DEPARTURE AND WAS NOT CLEARED BY CODEL. KRUSE

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